

available items;

a first-tier [electronic market] providing a first participant access to the inventory of one or more items in the data repository, the inventory being offered to the first participant under a first pricing scheme; and

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C. 1. a second-tier [electronic market] providing a second participant, different from the first participant, access to the inventory of one or more items in the data repository, the inventory being offered to the second participant under a second pricing scheme different from the first pricing scheme.

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47. (Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein the first-tier [electronic market] comprises one or both of a business-to-consumer electronic auction and a consumer-to-consumer electronic auction [market] and the second-tier [electronic market] comprises a business-to-business electronic auction [market].

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59. (Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein the first-tier [electronic market] and the second-tier [electronic market] share the data repository.

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63. (Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein the second participant has privileges, unavailable to the first participant, that enable the second participant to access the second-tier [electronic market].

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20⁶⁵. (Amended) The system of claim ~~46~~¹ wherein the first-tier and second-tier [electronic markets] are implemented on a same computer system.

21⁶⁶. (Amended) The system of claim ~~46~~¹ wherein the first-tier and second-tier [electronic markets] are implemented on separate computer systems interconnected by a network.

22⁶⁷. (Amended) The system of claim ~~46~~¹ wherein the two-tiered electronic auction [market] system is implemented on a [market maker] computer system that also hosts an electronic market system.

23⁶⁸. (Amended) The system of claim ~~46~~¹ further comprising a process that determines whether a participant is granted access to the first-tier [electronic market] or the second-tier [electronic market].

24⁶⁹. (Amended) The system of claim ~~68~~²³ wherein the process comprises a login process that grants the participant access to the second-tier [electronic market] if the participant has been pre-approved.

25⁷⁰. (Amended) The system of claim ~~69~~²⁴ wherein the login process determines that the participant is pre-approved to access the second-tier [electronic market] if the

participant enters a predetermined login ID or password or both.

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71. (Amended) A computer-implemented method of facilitating commercial transactions by providing a two-tiered electronic auction [market], the method comprising:

maintaining a first-tier electronic auction [market] at a [market maker] computer system, the first electronic auction [market] comprising items offered to consumer participants under a retail pricing scheme;

maintaining a second-tier electronic auction [market] at the [market maker] computer system, the second electronic auction [market] comprising items offered to dealer participants under a wholesale pricing scheme; and

linking the first-tier and second-tier electronic auctions [markets] through a data repository having data records that [uniquely] represent items concurrently available in both of the first-tier and second-tier electronic auctions [markets].

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72. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁶ wherein linking the first-tier and second-tier electronic auctions [markets] comprises maintaining [storing in the data repository] a predetermined fixed rate that determines a price differential between the first-tier and second-tier electronic auctions [markets].

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73. (Amended) The method of claim 72²⁶ wherein the predetermined price differential is established by one or more dealer participants in the second-tier electronic

auction [market].

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74. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁶ wherein linking the first-tier and the second-tier electronic auctions [markets] comprises maintaining [storing in the data repository] a price differential between the first-tier and the second-tier [electronic markets], the price differential being established on an item-by-item basis by one or more dealer participants in the second-tier electronic auction [market].

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75. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁴ further comprising facilitating a financial transaction in the first-tier electronic auction [market] between a consumer participant and a dealer participant, the transaction having finality of transaction.

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76. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁴ further comprising facilitating a financial transaction in the second-tier electronic auction [market] between a first dealer participant and another dealer participant, the transaction having finality of transaction.

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77. (Amended) The method of claim 71²⁴ further comprising facilitating a transaction in the first electronic auction [market] between a consumer participant and a dealer participant, the transaction transferring a legally cognizable interest from the dealer participant to the consumer participant.

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7/8. (Amended) The method of claim 7/1 further comprising facilitating a
transaction in the second electronic auction [market] between a first dealer participant and
another dealer participant, the transaction transferring a legally cognizable interest from the
first dealer participant to the other dealer participant.

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7/9. (Amended) The method of claim 7/1 further comprising:
receiving payment information from at least one participant in the first or second
electronic auction [market], the received payment information being associated with a
transaction at the first or second electronic auction [market];
processing the received payment information; and
transferring an ownership interest in an item to the at least one participant.

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90. (Amended) A system for facilitating electronic commerce transactions among
participants in an electronic auction using [over] a data packet network, the system
comprising:
a first data storage location for storing information relating to [describing] an item
for auction, the stored information indicating [sale, the first data storage location including]
at least one of a retail price term for a retail-tier participant and a wholesale price term for
a wholesale-tier participant;

a second data storage location for storing a user identification identifying a
participant as either a retail-tier participant or a wholesale-tier participant; and

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